Vol. VIII. Numb. 10.

THE OBSERVATOR.

On a Pamphlet lately publiſh'd, call'd, A Defence of Dr. *Sacheverell*; or, Paſſive-Obedience prov'd to be the Doctrine of the Church of *England*. *On another, call'd,* Dr. *Sacheverell's* Defence, in a Letter to a Member of Parliament. *The Impeachment of him by the Commons juſtify'd, againſt the inſolent Clamours of the Faction, and the Charge prov'd from his Sermons, by quoting the Pages.*

From Wednesday, January 11. to Saturday, January 14. 1709.

Country-m. HEre's a Pamphlet for you, Maſter, entitl'd, *A Defence of Dr. Sacheverell.* 'Tis a good large one too, for it conſiſts of no leſs than 194 Pages.

Obſ. That's a bulky Defence indeed, *Roger.* Pray what's the Nature of it?

Country-m. The Author undertakes to prove, Maſter, that Paſſive-Obedience has been the Doctrine of the Church of *England* from the Reformation to theſe Times. He draws up his Arguments in eight Battallions, 1. The Doctrine of the 39 Articles. 2. That of the Injunctions and Canons. 3. That of the Homilies. 4. That of the Liturgy. 5. The Orders of our Biſhops. 6. The Cenſures of our Univerſities. 7. The Opinions of 97 of the moſt learned Divines of the Church of *England*. 8. The Opinions of 14 of the moſt eminent reform'd Divines, and others Abroad.

Obſ. That's a formidable Army indeed, *Roger*, if we conſider only their Numbers; but if moſt of 'em be preſs'd into the Service, as certainly they are, they will ſtand the Doctor and his Faction in very little ſtead; for the greateſt Part of 'em will run upon the firſt vigorous Attack. But before we come to the Argument, *Roger*, 'tis fit to take Notice, that this Pamphlet is only the old Hiſtory of Paſſive-Obedience, new vamp'd by the skilful Hand of ſome ſuch Author as Mr. *Leſley*, that the Faction may ſteal a Blow at the Government, now when they can't openly attack it in their *Rehearſals*, &c. ſo that every Word of it has been anſwer'd before, and particularly by the late Biſhop *Stillingfleet*, in his *Unreaſonableneſs of a new Separation on Account of the Oaths, with an Anſwer to Paſſive-Obedience, ſo far as it relates to them, and his Vindication of that Diſcourſe.* Beſides, all thoſe Battallions were routed long ago by Mr. *Sam. Johnſon*, in his *Julian*, and *Anſwers to* Conſtantius *the Apoſtate*, and *Jovian*, and in a very learned Piece, by *P. A. D. D.* in his *Reflexions on the Opinions of ſome modern Divines, concerning the Nature of Government in general, and that of* England *in particular*; ſo that this is mere Wrangling.

Country-m. It ſhews the Impudence of the Faction however, Maſter, to offer any Thing in Defence of a Man impeach'd by the Commons of *England* 'for high Crimes and Miſdemeanors, and particu-'larly for reflecting upon and condemning the Re-'volution, and the glorious Inſtrument of it, the 'late King *William*, and thoſe who join'd him, and 'the Convention and ſucceeding Parliaments, who 'approv'd it by ſeveral Acts, particularly that of 'the 1ſt of *William* and *Mary*, entitled, An Act de-'claring the Rights and Liberties of the Subjects, and 'ſettling the Succeſſion of the Crown, Seſſ. 2. Cap. '2. another Act of that ſame Year to prevent vex-'atious Suits againſt ſuch as acted in order to bring 'in their Majeſties, or for their Service, Cap. 8. 'Act 42. and another Act, 2 *William* and *Mary*, 'Cap. 10. for appropriating certain Duties for pay-'ing the States General of the united Provinces 'their Charges for his Majeſty's Expedition into 'this Kingdom, and for other Uſes.

Obſ. We may ſee, *Roger*, what the Party would be at, were their Power anſwerable to their Will. We have no Reaſon to doubt, but they who are ſo uncharitable as to damn all to the Lake of Fire and Brimſtone, that, contrary to their wiſeſt Senſe of Paſſive-Obedience, took Arms to effect the late happy Revolution, would, if they could, ſend them out of this World by Axes, Halters, and *Smithfield*-Flames, and give them a Paſſport into the other by *Anathema's* from their ſuperior Paſtors. This ſufficiently juſtifies the Proceedings of our noble Patriots the Commons againſt Dr. *Sacheverell*; for as the Faction, whoſe good Intentions he has expreſs'd in his Sermons, began ſoon after the Revolution to proſecute ſuch as were active in it by vexatious Suits, which occaſion'd the Act above-mention'd, if ever they ſhould have Power in their Hands, they would proſecute for high Treaſon all thoſe who concurr'd in the Revolution, or argu'd for the Abdication, and the Vacancy of the Throne; and ſhould God, for our Sins, ſuffer the Pretender to be brought in, the Faction being acted by the ſame Spirit with the *Scotch* abdicated Biſhops, who pray'd in their Addreſs to the late King *James*, that he might trample upon the Necks of his Enemies, muſt, according to their Principles, think themſelves obliged to cut off her Majeſty's Head. All which demonſtrates the Neceſſity of what the Commons have done, and that it was a Duty incumbent on them to the Queen, the Nation, and themſelves, as well as to our Allies the *Dutch*, who muſt have conceiv'd a ſtrange Opinion of us, if we ſhould have ſuffer'd their Concurrence in the late happy Revolution to be thus reflected upon, and damn'd to Hell in the Cathedral of our principal City, before its Magiſtrates, and to ſee the Sermon come out afterwards under a Pretext of the Lord-Mayor's Patronage, had not the Commons given this ſeaſonable Check to ſuch wicked and ſeditious Practices. Nay, had they not done ſo, *Roger*, not only the *Dutch*, but all our other Confederates, muſt have thought us an infatuated People, to bear ſuch an Expence of Blood and Treaſure to defend our publick Liberty Abroad, and yet ſuffer it to be run down at Home by Pulpit-Incendiaries, and a reſtleſs Faction, who brought us formerly to Popery and Slavery. So much I thought neceſſary to ſay, *Roger*, for obviating the malicious Clamours of the Party againſt the Houſe of Commons in Pulpits, Libels, and Coffee-houſes, where they expreſs themſelves with as much Inſolence, as if they expected the Pretender over with the Fleet which our publick News tays the *French* are equipping.

Country-m. We may ſee plain enough, Maſter, that the Faction deſign nothing but Rebellion and Confuſion, when they have the Impudence to defend a Man impeach'd not only for the Cauſes above-mention'd, but for 'running down the Toleration granted to Diſſenters, for uniting her Majeſty's Proteſtant Subjects in Intereſt and Affection, as 'tis expreſs'd 1 *William* and *Mary*, Cap. 1. 'the Acts eſtabliſhing the Succeſſion in the Proteſtant Line, and for ſwearing in the Lords of the Ad-'dreſs of the Lords and Commons of the 17th of 'December, 1708, beſeeching her Majeſty to take 'effectual Meaſures for puniſhing the Authors of

'Spreaders of such seditious and scandalous Reports, *That the Church of* England *is in Danger under her Majesty's Administration*, as Enemies to the 'Queen, Church, and Kingdom: To which her 'Majesty gave a most gracious Answer, and publish'd her Royal Proclamation accordingly.

Obs. By all this it is evident, *Roger*, that the Doctor and his Faction are, by the Authority of Queen, Lords, and Commons, condemn'd as the Nation's Enemies, and that the Doctor is justly charg'd 'with a wicked, malicious, and seditious 'Intention to undermine and subvert her Majesty's Government, to defame her Administration, 'to asperse the Memory of King *William* the IIId, 'to condemn the late happy Revolution, to contradict and arraign the Resolutions of both Houses, to create Divisions and Jealousies among her 'Majesty's Subjects, and to incite them to Sedition 'and Rebellion.

Country-m. There can be nothing more plain, Master, since in the Dedication of his *Derby*-Sermon he threatens us with the Lives and Fortunes of his Party to maintain the Church and Constitution, which he says are so shamefully betray'd and run down by associated Malignants; and his Party copy after him in a Libel, call'd, *Dr.* Sacheverell's *Defence, in a Letter to a Member of Parliament, printed for* John Read *at the* Bishop's Head *in* Little Britain; which, tho' it contain nothing of Argument, yet is remarkable for its Malice, threatens us with the Number of their Party, impudently arraigns the Commons, and in the Title-Page blasphemously compares *Sacheverell* to God, by that Sentence of *Seneca*, *Ecce par Deo Dignum, vir fortis cum mala Fortuna compositus*; *i. e.* Here is a Couple of Things worthy of a God, a brave Man attended with ill Fortune.

Obs. Had it not been for the Insolence of his Party, *Roger*, I should not have troubl'd my self farther about him; but since they so impudently arraign the Commons from the Pulpit and Press, and that 'tis below the Dignity of the House to enter into a Dispute with the cavilling Faction, 'tis the Duty of every honest Man to defend their Proceedings to the utmost of his Power, against those pestilent Libels so industriously spread thro' the Nation, to provoke the People against their Representatives, and to poyson them with the same bad Principles laid down in Dr. *Sacheverell*'s Sermons.

Country-m. 'Tis a Wonder to me, Master, how any Man that is not professedly for a Popish Prince and a *French* Government, can say a Word in his Defence; for there's nothing more plain, than, 1. That in his Two-penny Sermon, p. 12, he suggests, 'that the necessary Means us'd to bring about the 'happy Revolution, were odious and unjustifiable; 'that p. 13. he says, his late Majesty in his Declaration, disclaim'd the least Imputation of Resistance; and p. 12. that to impute Resistance to 'the said Revolution, is to cast a black and odious Colour upon both it and his Majesty: Whereas every Body knows, Master, that his Majesty came over on Purpose to resist, as appears by his Declarations, and the actual Encounters betwixt his Troops, and those of the King at *Wincanton* and *Redding*; so that a more impudent Lie was never told out of a Pulpit. 2. 'Tis as plain, Master, that p. 9. and in many other Places, 'he condemns the 'legal Toleration as unjustifiable, and calls them 'who defend it false Brethren with Relation to 'God, the Church, or Religion; and p. 19. he 'says Queen *Elizabeth* was deluded by Arch-bishop 'Grindall (whom he scurrilously calls a false Son of 'the Church, and a perfidious Prelate) to grant a 'Toleration to the *Genevians*; and p. 23. he says 'tis the Duty of superior Pastors to thunder out 'their Ecclesiastical *Anathema's* against Persons entitl'd to the Toleration, and insolently dares and 'defies any Power on Earth to reverse the Sentence. Now, Master, this is expressly contrary to 25 *Hen.* 8. Cap. 19. and 1 *Eliz.* Cap. 1. Sect. 6. since the King and Parliament have withdrawn their Consent from those Canons, by which Dissenters were excommunicated; so that he flies in the Face of the Legislature. 3. 'Tis as plain, that p. 20. he asserts 'the Church to be in Danger under her Majesty's 'Administration, by which he arraigns and contradicts the Resolves of both Houses, approv'd by 'her Majesty as above-mention'd; and as a Parallel, mentions a Vote that the Person of King *Charles* 'the IIst was voted to be out of Danger at the 'same Time the Murderers were conspiring his 'Death; by which he wickedly and maliciously 'insinuates, that both Houses who pass'd the Vote, 'were then conspiring the Destruction of the Church. This I think, Master, to be the most impudent Affront to the Queen and Parliament, that was ever pronounc'd from a Pulpit, since it not only charges them with a direct Lie, but a treacherous Conspiracy against the Church. 4. 'Tis as plain from his *Derby*-Sermon, p. 7. and from many Passages of that in St. *Paul*'s, particularly p. 20. 'that he falsly 'and maliciously suggests her Majesty's Administration, both in Ecclesiastical and Civil Affairs, 'tends to the Destruction of our Constitution; and 'that there are Men of Characters and Stations in 'Church and State, p. 18, 19. who are false Brethren; by which 'tis evident he encourages the 'setting up of separate Parties, and incites her Majesty's Subjects to take up Arms. This I take to be evident, Master, by his insinuating, p. 18. that the Guardianship of the Church and Crown is committed to Traytors. We must talk more of the several Pamphlets publish'd in his Defence next Time, Master, and of a Letter we have receiv'd about seditious Words spoke by a Parson in his Vindication at a Coffee-house near *Ratcliff-Cross*.

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